



By Jennifer Emert
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ALBANY, GA – Thirteen million dollars in stimulus money is being routed through the U.S. Agriculture Department to bring broadband service to five south Georgia counties.

The service is expected to save and create jobs in Baker, Calhoun, Early Mitchell, and Miller Counties. Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack stood alongside Congressman Sanford Bishop for today's announcement at the South Georgia Regional Information Technology Authority.

Vilsack said Bishop pushed for the USDA to get some of the seven billion dollars so it would be spent in rural counties. The grant will establish region fiber lines and create broadband access in counties where it doesn't exist at all.

"The access, the connectivity to broadband opens up possibilities that are just so tremendous in terms of improving the quality of life and facilitating success," said Rep. Sanford Bishop, (D)-Georgia.

With Monday's announcement 98 percent of the second congressional district will have access to broadband service. Bishop said it will mean access for schools, businesses, farms, and homes.